

Request

OLC #78-0426

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

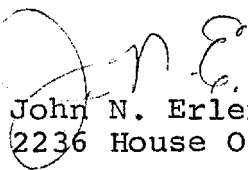
Washington, D.C.

February 3 19 78

Sir:

The attached communication
is sent for your consideration.
Please investigate the statements
contained therein and forward me
the necessary information for re-
ply, ~~returning the enclosed corre-~~
~~spondence with your answer.~~

Yours truly,


John N. Erlenborn, M. C.
2236 House Office Building

JNE/jmw

8 0426

Hon. John Erlenborn,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sir,

First, thank you for sending the Congressional report. We're glad you did. We are inclosing an article from the Chicago Tribune which describes our feelings concerning the handcuffing of the protection agencies of our U.S. Since it describes the situation much better than we could, we hope you read it. Whether you can do anything about it, we don't know. We are really concerned that our agents are being so shackled that our country is in danger, grave danger. It seems that after Watergate Congress and the President have gone overboard bringing everything to the public. It scares us that our agents are being so so stifled. STAT

Yours truly,

Bob Wiedrich

Spies, assassins have a ball in U.S.



WHILE CONGRESS neuters the American intelligence community with one hand and grabs Korean bribe money with the other, foreign spies are having a ball in the United States.

Peek behind any bush and you're likely to find a Soviet agent. Lift any rock and there might lurk an agent from a Communist satellite country.

Open any door. And behind it might stand a Yugoslavian assassin charged with stifling by violence, if necessary, the voices of dissent among emigres speaking out against the Tito Communist regime from American soil.

Literally, the United States has now been turned into a battleground by conflicting Old World ideologies while still remaining the free world's greatest treasure chest for the looting of military, industrial, and commercial secrets.

And all this goes on, mind you, while Congress and the Justice Department apply their best efforts to handcuffing the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other intelligence services.

DETENTE, it would appear, has dulled American recognition of the dangers of foreign agents penetrating our midst.

And, at the same time, the post-Watergate penchant for administering a

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purgative to American intelligence operations is threatening to leave the country defenseless against those dedicated to destroying our freedom.

It is a classic example of democratic philosophies in conflict. And while these conflicts are being debated, the United States is being methodically raped of its secrets and its laws violated by clandestine killers whose only allegiance is to fear.

What brings this to mind is this week's death—accidentally or otherwise—of Dr. Mihailo Naumovic, an outspoken anti-Communist former editor of a Serbian-language newspaper whose car crashed through a guardrail to plunge into the Chicago River.

His death could easily be charged off to an accident were it not for the death by stabbing last June of one of Naumovic's associate editors in an especially brutal murder in which a 9-year-old girl also died.

THESE UNSOLVED murders were blamed by anti-Communist colleagues on secret agents of the Yugoslavian government operating in the United States, as have been other assassination plots, bombings, and beatings both here and in Western Europe.

Much of this could be attributed to paranoia among Serbian emigre dissidents were it not for hard evidence gathered by U.S. counterintelligence agents of the presence of Yugoslav hit men in the country.

It is known that such professional killers have been dispatched to the United States with specific, especially vocal anti-Communist targets in mind.

And on occasion, they have successfully carried out their assignments after pursuing their victims half around the world and even back to Western Europe.

POLITICALLY, the United States finds itself walking a tight rope between the blatant violation of its domestic laws and the accommodation it has had with the Tito Communist regime since it split with Moscow in 1948.

On the one hand, Congress appropriates millions of dollars in foreign economic and military aid for the Tito government. And, at the same time, comes down hard on the American intelligence services whose jobs also involve fighting off foreign espionage intrusions into our domestic affairs.

"The Serbian anti-Communists came to the U.S. looking for a better life," one counterintelligence agent told us.

"Yet, it is becoming increasingly difficult with the restraints imposed on us to protect the constitutional rights of these poor people to live in peace or even to insure their right to stay alive.

"It is tragic that a foreign intelligence service is so paranoid that it adopts as a high priority item the sending of agents here to stifle dissent. And it raises in my mind serious questions about the right of the Tito government to claim a place among the civilized nations of the world."

THAT AGENT FEELS frustrated. So do many others whose jobs involve trying to suppress the espionage activities of the 10,000 Soviet spies and East European stooges directed against the U.S. and the other western democracies.

More than 40 per cent of the thousand diplomatically credited Soviet officials in the U.S. have been identified as Kremlin spies. But those are only those who have been identified. Estimates indicate that the actual number of Communist agents operating here may have quadrupled in recent years.

And, besides stealing military and technological information from us, they also listen in on our phone calls, using the latest computerized techniques to steal commercial and industrial secrets vital to their own economy.

By sensitizing their eavesdropping devices to certain key words, they can record only those conversations of interest out of millions of phone calls monitored.

The devices lock in as soon as a grain broker or petroleum tycoon mentions the magic words. And the next day the Kremlin knows precisely the strategy of American businessmen in vital world markets.

So don't dismiss the Communist threat to American internal security as a fictional spy thriller. Instead, write an indignant letter to your congressman.